

MURFREESBORO.

GREAT UNION VICTORY!

Complete Success of General Rosecrans' Forces.

The Rebels in Full Retreat from Murfreesboro.

Their Flight Towards Tullahoma.

Five Consecutive Days of Terrible Fighting.

THE LOSS VERY HEAVY ON BOTH SIDES.

General Rosecrans' Official Despatches.

HEADQUARTERS, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, IN FRONT OF MURFREESBORO, JAN. 3, VIA NASHVILLE, JAN. 4, 1863.

To H. W. HALL, General-in-Chief, Washington:

On the 26th of December we marched from Nashville in three columns, General McCook by Nolansville pike, General Thomas from the camp on Franklin's pike, via Wilson pike, and General Crittenden on the main Murfreesboro pike.

Our left and center met with a strong resistance, such as the nature of the country permits, the rolling or hilly routes, skirted by cedar thickets and farms, and, intersected by small streams, with rocky bluff banks, forming serious obstacles.

General McCook drove General Hardee's corps a mile and a half from Nolansville, and occupied the place.

General Crittenden reached within a mile and a half of Tullahoma.

General Thomas reached the Wilson pike, meeting with no serious opposition.

On the 27th General McCook drove General Hardee from Nolansville and pushed forward a reconnoitering division six miles towards Shelbyville, and found that General Hardee had retreated towards Murfreesboro.

General Crittenden fought and drove the enemy before him, occupying the line of Stewart's creek, and capturing some prisoners with slight loss.

General Thomas occupied the vicinity of Nolansville, when he was partially surprised, thrown into confusion, and driven back. General Hardee's division had repulsed the enemy four times and protected the flank of the center, who not only held its own, but advanced until this untoward event, which compelled me to retain the left wing to support the right until it should be rallied and assume a new position.

On the 1st instant the rebels opened by an attack on us, and were again repulsed.

On the 2d instant there was skirmishing along the front with threats of an attack until about three o'clock in the afternoon, when the enemy advanced, throwing a small division across Stones river to occupy the commanding ground there.

While reconnoitering the ground occupied by this division, which had no artillery, I saw a heavy force emerging from the woods and advancing in line of battle three lines deep. They drove our little division before them after a sharp contest, in which we lost seventy or eighty killed and three hundred and seventy-five wounded; but they were finally repulsed by General Negley's division and the remaining troops of the left wing of General Morton's Pioneer brigade, and fled far over the field and beyond their intrenchments, their officers rallying them with great difficulty. He lost heavily. We occupied the ground with the left wing last night. The lines were completed at four o'clock in the morning.

The 3d was spent in bringing up and distributing provisions and ammunition. It has been raining all day. The ground is very heavy.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major General Commanding.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBORO, Jan. 4, 1863.

To Major General H. W. HALL, General-in-Chief:

Following my despatch of last evening, I have to announce that the enemy are in full retreat. They left last night.

The rain having raised the river, and the bridge across it between the left wing and center being incomplete, I deemed it prudent to withdraw that wing during the night. This occupied my time until four o'clock, and fatigued the troops.

The announcement of the retreat was known to me at seven o'clock this morning.

Our ammunition train arrived during the night.

To day was occupied in distributing ammunition, burying the dead and collecting arms from the field of battle. The pursuit was commenced by the center, the two leading brigades arriving at the west side of Stones river this evening. The railroad bridge was saved, but in what condition is not known.

We shall occupy the town and push the pursuit to-morrow.

Our Medical Director estimates the wounded in hospital at 5,260, and our dead at 1,800.

We have to deplore the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Gerseche, whose capacity and general department had already endeared him to all the officers of this command, and whose gallantry on the field of battle excluded their admiration.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major General Commanding.

General Mitchell's Official Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS, NASHVILLE, TENN., JAN. 4-1 P. M.

To H. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War:

Skirmishing commenced on the evening of the 29th. Our forces following the enemy closely, and driving them to the evening of the 30th.

On the morning of the 31st the enemy attacked our front at daylight. Ever since that time the fight has been progressing. This is the fifth day in the same locality.

If the whole Richmond army does not get here our success is certain.

The fighting has been terrible.

Our army has the advantage and will hold it, God willing.

I cannot give particulars.

Our officers have suffered terribly.

I have heard nothing of importance since ten o'clock

last evening. At that time everything was favorable for us.

ROBERT R. MITCHELL, Brigadier General Commanding.

DETAILS OF THE GREAT BATTLE.

BATTLE FIELD, STONES RIVER, JAN. 3, 1863.

It rained hard all this day, and both armies suspended hostilities, save skirmishing. This evening we battered down a rebel house which concealed sharpshooters, and after short fighting drove the enemy out of a cover from which they had damaged us. Unless the enemy attacks Sunday will perhaps be quiet.

Up to date our killed and wounded, including skirmishing, amount to nearly five thousand. An unusual proportion of the wounds are severe. The number of killed is about one-fifth that of the wounded.

The Murfreesboro Rebel Banner of yesterday admits a rebel loss of five thousand in Wednesday's battle. They have lost at least two thousand since. Prisoners state that Generals Hardee and Hanson were killed.

The following are additional names of Union officers killed and wounded:

KILLED.

Colonel Fred C. Jones, Twenty-fourth Ohio, gallantly leading his regiment into action.

Lieutenant Mark Walker, Fifteenth Indiana, severely.

Adjutant Boynton, Sixty-ninth Ohio.

WOUNDED.

Colonel Nick Anderson, Sixth Ohio.

Colonel Charles Anderson, Ninety-third Ohio. Both of these officers were wounded quite severely, but after the wounds were dressed they returned to the field.

General J. F. Miller, commanding Seventh Brigade, returned to duty after his wound was dressed.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall.

Lieutenant Colonel Elms, Fortieth Indiana, severely.

Captain C. C. Webb, Thirtieth Michigan, severely.

Lieutenant A. G. Russell, Twenty-first Michigan.

Lieutenant Mark Walker, Fifteenth Indiana, severely.

Lieutenant Enoch Wiley, Twenty-first Ohio, severely.

Lieutenant Frank Peeler, Sixty-fifth Ohio, severely.

Colonel Leonard.

Colonel C. C. Hines.

Major and Adjutant Elliott. These last are all of the Fifty-seventh Indiana, and are severely wounded.

Colonel J. W. Tyler, Ninety-fourth Ohio, severely but not dangerously.

Major Hickey, Sixty-ninth Ohio.

Captain McDonnell, Adjutant General of Rosecrans' staff.

Lieutenant James McConnell, Eighteenth regulars.

Captain C. W. Burket, slightly.

Lieutenant S. T. Smith, slightly.

Lieut. J. H. Ferguson, Sixty-fourth Ohio, severely.

Lieut. James C. Bowman, Sixteenth regulars.

Adjutant Massey, Fifty-fifth Ohio, severely.

Col. Alex. Connel, Sixty-fifth Ohio, not dangerously.

Lieut. Grinstead, 84 Kentucky.

Lieut. McCalla, 18th Ohio, seriously.

Capt. Brock and Lieut. Peter, 74th Ohio.

Major Harvick, 1st Wisconsin.

The Lieutenant Colonel of the 66th Indiana was saved by a breastplate. A shot struck his breast and knocked him out of his saddle.

Lieutenant Wm. Porter, of General Rosecrans' staff, riding directly behind the General, received a piece of shell between his pants and haversack, cutting his breeches.

Since the above was written the skirmishing has developed into a bitter fight. General Rosecrans, worried by some rebels behind breastworks, sent Colonel Best, of the Third Ohio, with his regiment and the Eighty-eighth Indiana, and they carried the works at the point of the bayonet, capturing many prisoners and holding the works.

All is quiet now, but the enemy is reported evacuating.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 4, 1863.

Everything is going on well in front. Gen. Rosecrans is in Murfreesboro. He captured the rebel trains and is driving the enemy. Gen. Rosecrans is unhurt. His Assistant Adjutant General (McDonnell) is wounded in the arm.

The Journal's despatches say that a fourth bloody fight occurred last night during the storm. The rebels charged up and were repulsed. Our troops hold Murfreesboro. Our advantages are decided. General Breckinridge's division was cut to pieces and routed on Saturday. Our skirmishers decimated a large number of rebels among our batteries. We routed them with great slaughter.

Capt. McCulloch, of the Second Kentucky cavalry (Union), says the rebel General Winters was driven almost to madness by the slaughter of his men. Eye-witnesses say that the slaughter exceeds that of Shiloh.

Gen. Rosecrans and his soldiers are in the highest spirits.

On Saturday Colonel Daniel McCook engaged Wheeler's cavalry six miles from Nashville, routing him completely. All is highly cheering.

Prisoners say that General Kirby Smith is in the light. Rebel cantons were filled with whiskey and gunpowder. The Murfreesboro Rebel of the 2d inst. says the federals fought gallantly, and admit a loss of five thousand.

The Union prisoners are sent to Murfreesboro as fast as taken.

Captain John Penha, of Kentucky, was wounded by a shell in the head. Adjutant Card, of the same regiment, was shot by a cannon ball.

NASHVILLE, TENN., JAN. 4, 1863.

It is reported that General Rosecrans' shells Murfreesboro this morning. There was no reply. Our forces would occupy it at once. The rebels undoubtedly left. Our object, it is reported, are pursuing.

McCook attacked Wheeler's cavalry near the asylum, six miles from Nashville, killing eight, which were left on the field, and many wounded. Seven Colonels were wounded.

Captain Pinner, of the Fifth Wisconsin, Lieutenant Hastings, of the Twenty-fifth Illinois, and all the commanding officers and sergeants of Companies G, L and K, are killed or disabled.

Colonel Scott, of the Nineteenth Illinois, is seriously wounded.

Captain Austin, of General Woodruff's staff, is taken prisoner.

Private despatches say that the rebels in their retreat are burning the cotton wherever they can get hold of it. It is reported that Frank Ward, of Anderson's Troop, is killed.

All the reports of Gen. Rosecrans having retreated to Nashville are false.

The fight to-day is supposed to be in the vicinity of Christian.

The interruptions of the rebel cavalry between Nashville and Christian make it difficult to get news, but everything thus far is favorable to the ultimate success of the Union arms.

The Jews concentrated here and at Cairo have appointed deputations to proceed to Washington, to remonstrate against Gen. Grant's order expelling them from the territory occupied by the Union forces.

There are four feet of water on the Cumberland Shoals, and the river is rising.

LOUISVILLE, JAN. 5, 1863.

Murfreesboro advises regarding the Union victory as complete. The entire rebel army is flying towards Tullahoma in great disorder.

THE VERY LATEST.

BATTLE FIELD, STONES RIVER, JAN. 6, 1863.

On Saturday it rained, and all was quiet until night, when the Third Ohio and Eighty-eighth Indiana charged and carried a rebel breastwork, capturing fifty prisoners and killing many rebels, with slight loss.

During the night the enemy evacuated, and are supposed to be retreating to Fayetteville.

Our loss in killed and wounded is about 5,000. The enemy claim that they captured 4,000 prisoners. Their loss is fully as great. Our loss of field officers—valuable ones—is distressing.

The rivers are all rising rapidly.

General Willits is in prison.

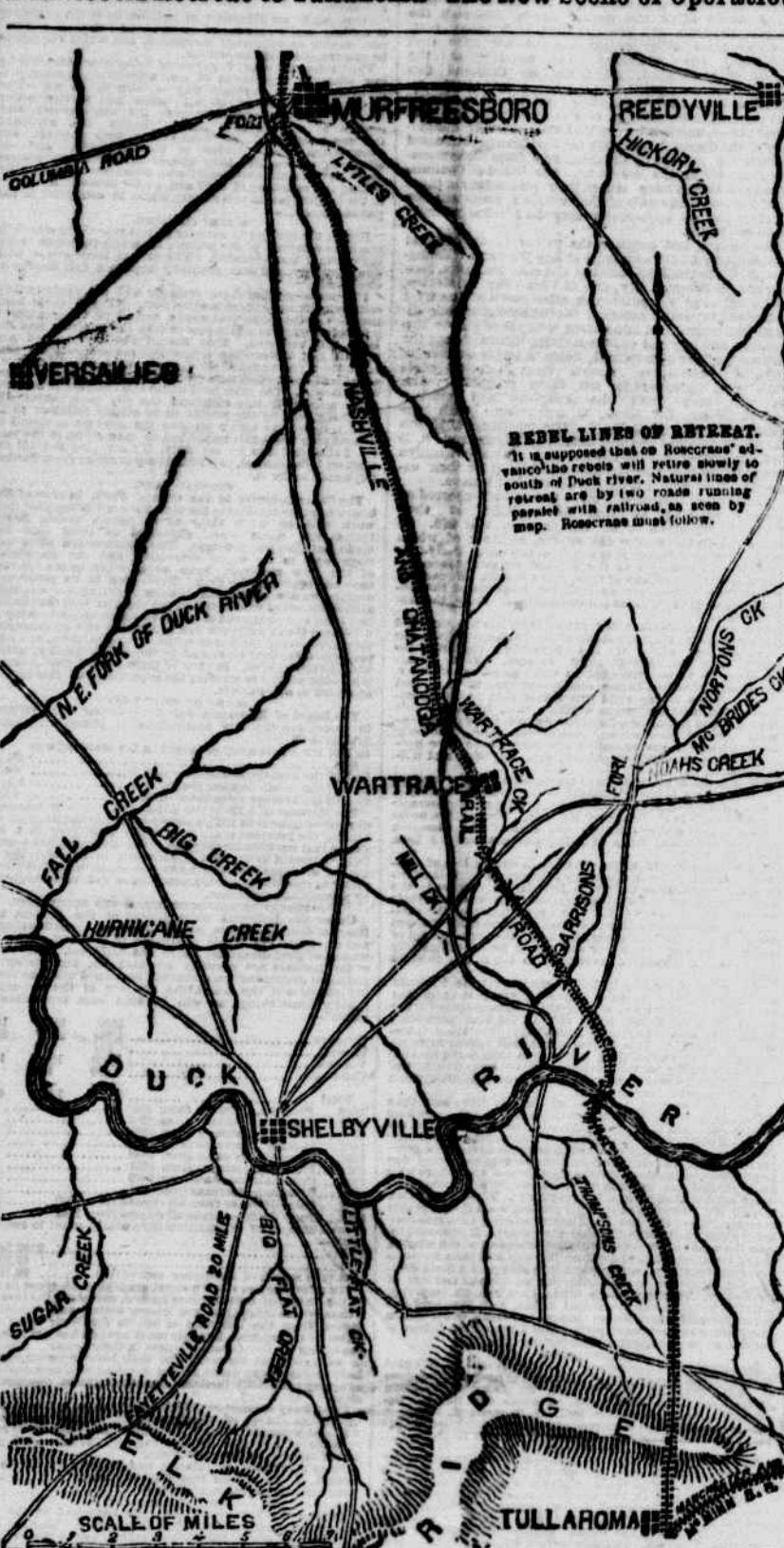
NASHVILLE, JAN. 5, 1863.

Wounded officers who arrived from the front say that Murfreesboro is certainly evacuated.

The rebels retire to Tullahoma.

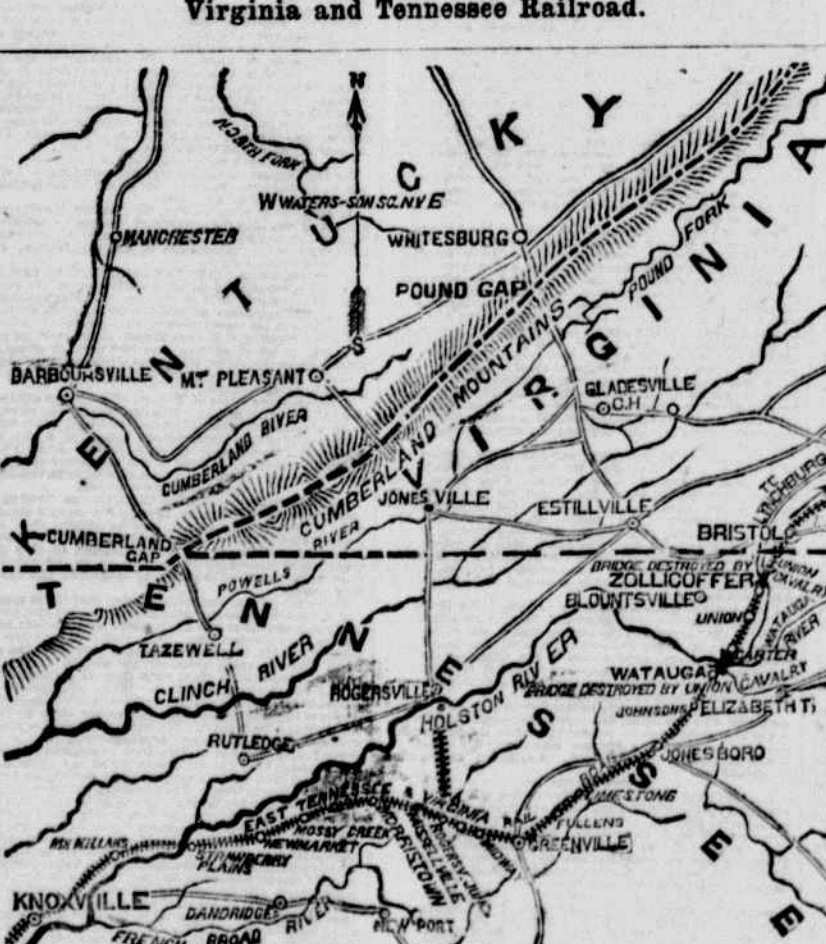
THE VICTORY AT MURFREESBORO.

The Rebels Retreat to Tullahoma—The New Scene of Operations



THE RAID IN EAST TENNESSEE.

Importance of the Operations of the Union Troops on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.



General Stanley is pursuing the rebel rear guard.

The rebels attacked us on Saturday night, and got whipped and driven back.

A portion of General Negley's division crossed the river first.

We lost ten thousand killed and wounded and four thousand prisoners. The rebel loss is large.

General Bill's body is in charge of the enemy.

The rebels attacked our forces on Saturday at 7 P. M., posted strongly in rifle pits, and were repulsed with terrible slaughter. The fight continued two hours.

At one o'clock Sunday morning the rebels commenced to retreat. At noon Stanley's cavalry entered Murfreesboro, drove, and captured prisoners, guns and stores. The rebels on Sunday in force occupied Murfreesboro. The enemy have gone to Tullahoma.

The mail from Louisville arrived at night.

About 2,000 of our wounded are in Murfreesboro. No rebels or guerrillas are on the road.

General Cheatham was reported killed by a shell in a house at Murfreesboro.

The enemy is whipped and gone.

General McCook (rebel) is certainly killed.

The Cumberland river has risen four and a half feet since last night.

Other sources say the Unionists are driving the rebels towards Tullahoma.

LOUISVILLE, JAN. 4, 1863.

The following despatch was received at the War Department this afternoon:

NASHVILLE, TENN., JAN. 5-10 A. M.

Rebels whipped and driven from Murfreesboro. Our forces pursuing. The rebels are retreating in the direction of Tullahoma. The Lord is on our side.

The rebels are whipped, and the Cumberland is in this morning in good boating condition.

Secretary Stanton this afternoon replied to Representatives, Green and others, and from a request for information as follows:

"We have a telegram from Rosecrans to Halleck, in which he details the operations as successful on our side down to Saturday. Another, from Gen. Mitchell at Nashville to us, which speaks of things entirely favorable on our side, and with confident predictions of our success and the destruction of the enemy. Another, from an operator at Nashville, the morning in which he says the news from headquarters this morning is decidedly cheering. A telegram from Grant says that the rebel army of 40,000 men, the Yankees are in full vigor. This ought to satisfy a reasonable appetite."

THE RAILROAD RAID IN TENNESSEE.

Important Operations of the Union Troops.

The Virginia and East Tennessee Railroad

Partially Destroyed from Knoxville to Bristol.

Route Taken by the Union Troops and

What They Accomplished.

What Routes of Railroad Travel are

Now Available Between Richmond, Va., and Tennessee.

20, 20, 20.

Important intelligence has been received from rebel sources of a brilliant operation performed in East Tennessee by the Union troops. From the Lynchburg Republic of New Year's day we learn that a body of Union cavalry, reported to be 5,000 strong, and composed of one Pennsylvania regiment and others unknown, had destroyed nine miles of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, burning the important bridge at Zollicoffer, over the Holston and Watauga rivers, and capturing two hundred rebel cavalry who were guarding the former. The Republic says it will take several weeks to repair the damages at a time when the road is taxed to its utmost capacity. It also states that the Yankees raid, which extended over a space of nearly a hundred miles, was one of unexpected daring and audacity.

The above account looks bad for the rebels, and they have made it as light as they could for the sake of not debauching the devoted followers of their cause. But had as they make it out to be, they have not given even a tithe of the true state of affairs.

THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

But what are the precise facts of the case? The affair is of far more serious consequence to the rebels than a mere destruction of about nine miles of railroad. Nearly all the bridges between Knoxville and the Virginia State line—a distance of 150 miles—have been destroyed, and the track more or less injured. So combined was the movement that the whole affair was completed in a comparatively short space of time, and, as the rebels express it, the line was so much injured "that it will take several weeks to repair the damages."

THE PLAN, MARCH AND OPERATIONS OF THE UNION TROOPS.

The plan adopted is developed by the results. From the facts we have we know that two bodies of Union troops, belonging to General Granger's army of Kentucky, left Richmond, Ky., shortly after Christmas, on an unknown expedition. It now appears that one portion of these forces took the left hand road running south from that place, and passing by Manchester, reached Mount Pleasant. Thence it took the road over the mountain to Knoxville, and passing through that place and Nashville, struck the railroad at Union, a station situated about eleven miles from Bristol, which is near the line between Virginia and Tennessee. At this point the work of destruction was commenced. The telegraph line to Richmond, Va., was cut out to prevent the rebel chiefs at their capital from knowing anything of what was going on beyond that point. They next dashed up the line as far as Bristol, effectually destroying the railroad track as they went, and as they fell back burned the bridges over the streams. Arriving at the point where the railroad crosses the Holston and Watauga rivers, the Union troops burned those bridges, and beyond that point the rebels give no information. The telegraphic line having been, as we have before stated, entirely destroyed west of Bristol, of course the rebels could learn nothing beyond that point by telegraph, nor by courier beyond where the principal bridges had been burned. As the distance between the west side of those bridges and Bristol was not over a dozen miles, a horseman might easily ride to the latter place, and give such information as he could have learned, and the same could have been telegraphed to Lynchburg and Richmond.

FURTHER DETAILS.

We, however, are enabled to supply the deficiency. After crossing the river, and passing Carter's depot, the Union troops pushed on to Jonesboro, thence to Greenville and Bull's Gap, now known as Rogersville Junction, altogether a distance of over seventy miles, at the same time destroying it as they went during their movements in the way of bridges, trestle work, &c., along that line. They ended the line of operations of the columns on the left.

ON THE RIGHT.

The other column left Richmond, Ky., by one of the roads running south, and struck the Cumberland Mountains at a point near Cumberland Gap, and passed over the west of that taken by their colleagues. They next proceeded to the State line, and crossing the Clinch river, entered the turnpike road to Rogersville. It was planned that this column should arrive at this point about midnight, at which hour a train of cars was generally at the station. Rogersville is a place of but small importance, and contained but few inhabitants, who were easily secured and prevented from giving any alarm. The march of the rebels, as the case of more than one, and coincident with the main line at Bull's Gap, or Rogersville Junction. The troops found the train at the station as had been expected, and went off in order. Having succeeded in this, they turned back, and following the main line in a westerly direction until they arrived at Strawberry Plains, within a few miles of Knoxville. All was dark, and in a few hours, and then the work of destruction commenced on the right. The track was torn up and a bridge destroyed just west of Strawberry Plains, and the work then proceeded westward, and the rebels, who were working back to the position, between New Market and Murfreesboro, a long piece of trestle work over a mile in extent, was used, destroyed, and our cavalry, under another leader, met the same fate as its neighbors. They fell back, destroying as they went, until they again reached the Rogersville junction. By 10 P. M., when they met with their friends who had been operating on the eastern part of the road. It will be seen that the operation extended within a few miles of the whole length of the line, and destroying the travel of greatly over a hundred miles in extent.

ITS EXTENT.

A large force of troops had been sent by this route to reinforce General Bragg, and this operation completely cut off their chance of reaching Murfreesboro by the Tennessee line. The Lynchburg Republic states that at the present time the road is taxed to its utmost capacity. The bridge, as the case of more than one, and coincident with the main line at Bull's Gap, or Rogersville Junction. The troops found the train at the station as had been expected, and went off in order. Having succeeded in this, they turned back, and following the main line in a westerly direction until they arrived at Strawberry Plains, within a few miles of Knoxville. All was dark, and in a few hours, and then the work of destruction commenced on the right. The track was torn up and a bridge destroyed just west of Strawberry Plains, and the work then proceeded westward, and the rebels, who were working back to the position, between New Market and Murfreesboro, a long piece of trestle work over a mile in extent, was used, destroyed, and our cavalry, under another leader, met the same fate as its neighbors. They fell back, destroying as they went, until they again reached the Rogersville junction. By 10 P. M., when they met with their friends who had been operating on the eastern part of the road. It will be seen that the operation extended within a few miles of the whole length of the line, and destroying the travel of greatly over a hundred miles in extent.

THE LATEST FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

NASHVILLE, TENN., JAN. 5, 1863.

A letter from Manchester, Ky., says that Colonel Carter did not attack or capture Knoxville, but going eastward, cut the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, burning the bridge of the river, suggesting that Western forces from Richmond, which is supposed they are attempting to do.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the City of Washington Off Cape Race.

FOUR DAYS' LATER INTELLIGENCE.

Reported Action of the British Government

Against the Alabama.

Letter from Commodore Maury on

the War.

SHIPWRECKS ON THE ENGLISH COAST.

ADVANCE IN COTTON.

20, 20, 20.

Via Post Office, Jan. 4, 1863.

The steamship City of Washington, from Liverpool 24th, via Queenstown 24th inst., for New York, was boarded off Cape Race at seven o'clock this (Sunday) morning.

The political news is unimportant.

It was rumored that the English government had issued a threatening notice against the Alabama, but its credibility was questioned.

Quite a number of shipwrecks have occurred on the coast.

The ship Eromanga, from Greenock for New York, had put back.